

ORAL MEMOIRS

OF

Dr. David Smith

An interview conducted on

October 20th, 2023

Interviewers: Dr. Allison Huntley and Bryan Mohler

Angelo State University

West Texas Collection

“William and Don Griffis Vietnam War Oral History Archive”

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DR. ALLISON HUNTLEY: Alright, um, so here we are. Today is October 20th. The time is 11:13 A.M. We're here in San Angelo, Texas. Um, I am Dr. Allison Huntley here with Dr. David Smith who we're interviewing and then we also have, um, uh, a student on the project- uh, Bryan Mohler. So, um, Dr. Smith, with that we'll- uh, that there, as you can see here, there are 25 questions. The first set of questions asks you about your background, the next set asks you about your military service, and then the last set asks you about, um, your experiences returning home. Um, so as I said, that if there are any questions that you'd prefer not to answer or there are ones or things you'd like to expand upon- it's up to you, but we'll just go ahead and start with the first question there. So, what is your name?

DR. DAVID SMITH: My name is David Smith. I usually say the 'R', the middle name- David R. Smith-

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay.

SMITH: Cause there's so many of us so.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, I didn't think about that.

[both laugh]

HUNTLEY: Alright, and then, where and when were you born? Then where did you grow up?

SMITH: Well, I hate to date myself.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: I was born in, uh, in 1956. I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I grew up in southern Wisconsin. Grew up, on a, uh, on a lake- a nice big lake in southern Wisconsin. I remember my mom who was deathly afraid of the water. She made us six kids swim before we pretty much could walk so.

HUNTLEY: Oh [laughs]

SMITH: It was a great, you know, place to grow up.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: That's all I'm saying.

HUNTLEY: Sounds like it. Um, and then how did you come to West Texas?

SMITH: Oh boy, I'd have to take a whole day to explain that, that convoluted journey

HUNTLEY: Oh yeah

SMITH: Well, um, I just came from- I was teaching for three years in Saudi Arabia, and then, um, um, before I left for Saudi Arabia, we were living here in, um, in Austin, and uh, the Saudis just frankly, just paid for the flight ticket back home after the contract ended which was to Houston.

HUNTLEY: Oh?

SMITH: Which is where I ended up, and then I saw the advertisement for the position and applied for it, and here I am.

HUNTLEY: Here at Angelo State.

SMITH: Yeah.

HUNTLEY: Awesome. Okay, um, and then when and where did you enter the armed forces?

SMITH: Well, it was in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was right after, um, I graduated from high school. I shouldn't say right after because, you know, I think like in my experience now with 20/20 hindsight, most kids at eighteen years old don't really know what we want to do with our lives after high school, and I remember I sure didn't. I had no direction or anything, and I- like everyone else too when you graduate, I think from high school, your kind of pressured here in the States, I think, is to- um, you need to go to college if you can, you know for- and so I did. I enrolled in, [sighs] was it, UW Milwaukee- University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. I spent a

semester there right after high school, and um, it wasn't helping 'cause I still didn't know what I wanted to do.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: And, um, one day my dad, of course, told me that well whatever you do, you should get a job, contribute to- my dad's kind of old school that way.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, I did. I got a job as a, a dishwasher at a local, you know, restaurant, um, what do you call that- a kind of country club restaurant, and I was washing dishes there one day, and I thought, you know I'm not going to be doing this for the rest of my life and there's a- there was like a stretch mall next door. And on my way to go home, I pass this, uh, recruiting office, and uh, all the four branches were in there- you know, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Army- and I thought, okay.

[both laugh]

SMITH: I walked in there one day, I think after work, and, um, I went to each one of them, you know, and asked them, you know, what can you offer me? And I remember that the, um, everyone except for the Army were telling me that we can't guarantee anything, you know, you can ask for- training and ask for a duty station or whatever. But the Army guy- the last one I

talked to was the Army guy and he says um, we can give you a choice. You can choose your training, and we'll train you on whatever field that is, but um, it'll be up to the Army where we send you, or just the opposite, we can uh, um, accommodate you wherever you want to go, maybe in the world, but we're going to decide what we're going to train you in. And I thought, well, I told him- and this is just the Army guy- I told him you know, that I just don't know what I want to do. And what he what- did is something I'll never forget- um, and I appreciate him doing this- unlike my guidance counselor in high school, he sat me down and we went through asking all the kinds of questions that a guidance counselor in high school would ask, you know what did you like, what did you not like, what kind of classes did you like in high school, and it turned out that I had uh- I started taking French language when I was like sixth grade, and when we got to high school, I just kept going on with it because I really enjoyed not just the language but learning about different cultures. I knew that, you know, I had never really thought about that until the Army guy is sitting there, and- and drawing this all out of me. And he says, okay finally, here's what we can do for you. We can, um, we can send you- we have this language school called Defense Language Institute in California, and we can, we can train you- we can train you on a language- you can choose the language that you would like to learn, and we'll train in you that but then we'll, we'll assign you to somewhere in the world where we want to assign you.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Or the opposite, you know. So, I, um- and of course this is the Cold War- so I thought- and I knew after taking French that with a foreign language if you want to keep it, and keep it

going, you need to practice it all the time. And of course, at the time, one of my languages that I thought I knew I would be practicing would be Russian.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, I requested Russian. And he says, before we actually train you in that, what you have to go through is a series of exams, you know, and one of those exams that I took was a totally made-up language that the Army made up. They give you some grammar rules, and they give you some list of vocabulary, and it's, you know, gobbledy-gook, but then they ask you questions about the language and so on and they give you a score and that apparently tells them whether you're, uh, good enough to learn a language, and um, I got a very high score on that. And so passed that and so, I said, yeah, I'm going to join. And I did; I went through a bit of a heck of a time with my dad I remember because I think he thought I was stupid. He says no, you need to- you're going to waste your time doing it. And I know I proved him wrong.

HUNTLEY: Going into the military at all or going into doing languages?

SMITH: Going into the military, yeah.

HUNTLEY: Okay.

SMITH: Yeah, he's a hardcore, old-school businessman guy. You could go to college, get your business degree, get out and start working. Well, I couldn't- I don't want- I knew by then, I wasn't a business kind of guy.

HUNTLEY: Did your other siblings go into business?

SMITH: Yeah, yeah, a couple brothers, um, actually and fairly successful, you know. My brother- one of my brothers owns a hardware store. Not a big hardware- just a nice family's hardware store in Cleveland- for a long time he's done that. My other brother is into that. He started out, um, in the healthcare- dis- distributing oxygen tanks and so on. And then he got a good job with a- you know, one of those kinds of companies that do health technology distribution and now he's, um, program manager of some, vice-president of some one of those so he's doing good.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: So, they're all- they all found a place.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, but you didn't come from like a family where- like, with a military background or anything?

SMITH: No, no, I do.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay. I was just curious.

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: So, with the other branches when you went into the recruiting office, they just told you like the spiel about we can't guarantee you anything but they didn't ask you about what you were interested in or anything?

SMITH: No, just- just asking-

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: - me what would you like to do.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: Um, it became controversial after I joined the Army by the way- there was a big controversy once I got to language school, and the controversy was about, um, recruiting methods. I think- I think this periodically within the military in particular at least- this pops up sometimes, the kind of underhanded or kind of recruiting methods that some of them used.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: And, um when I- when you- when I joined the Army, I had to go through of course basic training which was, what, about two months, and then you go on to, what- whatever training- I went on to language training, but, um- well...

HUNTLEY: Well, that's where we're going next. Uh, yeah, so, um, you served in the army, and what were your years of service?

SMITH: Um, well, I had did four years of active duty, and two years on reserve.

HUNTLEY: Okay

SMITH: So, six years total.

HUNTLEY: Okay

SMITH: I'm not sure if this is true or not- I never knew if it was true or not- but someone told me, that, um, if you do at the time did join the military that you are obligated to do six years of some sort.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, I mixed it up four years after for two years-

HUNTLEY: And then what were the years?

SMITH: Uh- uh- 19- September 7th, 1975, active duty for four years, until, until September 7th, 1979.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay.

SMITH: Then I, um, left the army in April [sucks air through teeth] of 1981.

HUNTLEY: Uh, okay. Alright, and then, uh, what conflicts did you serve during?

SMITH: Yeah, I got, well, '75- it was 19- well, my birthday is in May of 1974, that's when I turned 18, and I got a draft card. Um, it was one of the last ones of course. I think if I- if memory serves, um, was it April of '74, I think, Nixon- the draft ended? I- I got into the draft because I remembered specifically that my draft number was like 322- so I got like 365, you know-

HUNTLEY: [laughs] Yeah

SMITH: I reached it you know, dates on [whistles] that's a long story too, um, I remember, um, that- that ended but I still you know, they still- I think a year or two were still issuing draft notices.

HUNTLEY: Mm-hmm

SMITH: And I did get a draft card and then for that year, 74-75, you know, I was - I enrolled in college and was washing dishes in- and I thought, you know, that draft card, I was thinking, maybe that's something that if I don't follow it, you know, military prison. I don't know what reason back in the day- I can remember a day- I can remember in sixth grade a project that we did that was like a career day project or something. They had us do like a, a little journal for the semester, and I remember each week I had to write down something or make drawings or write down in like a diary form of what we might like to do in the future. And I can remember- I drew a soldier- I- I played GI Joes with a friend of mine, couple friends of ours on the weekend, we'd get together and play GI Joes in the backyard. And uh, so 20/20 hindsight, you know I think I might've been going in that direction for a while. But, so, I mean, I can't really tell you except it was just, uh, kind of a low point in my life when I had no idea what I wanted to do. They seemed to- it seems like I have a- after that exam, that language exam I had, I thought, well maybe I got a talent now.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So that turned out to be true. Yeah, sometimes that's the truth

HUNTLEY: Yeah, that's sometimes that's just how life goes, right?

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: So, you were serving, uh, so you went in just after the, uh, like fall of the separation of Saigon?

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: Okay. And then, what units did you serve in?

SMITH: I served in the 326th Army Security Agency, or ASA for short, Company. And at the end of that official title are the initials F. W. D. in capitals, and O. P. N. S. in capitals. That stands for: Forward Operations Company.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: ASA was the, um- today- today- while I was serving, actually in the middle of my service, um, the name was changed to, um, the initials are INSCOM- today it's known as the Army Intelligence and Security Command.

HUNTLEY: Okay

SMITH: So, the Army Security Agency since the 1960s, I think, was Army Intelligence- Army Intelligence today. So, it's a Forward Operations Army Intelligence Company that I served with.

HUNTLEY: Okay. And then you told us why you enlisted- do you want to tell us a little bit more about your training?

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: So, you talked a bit about the testing- did you want to tell us about your training?

SMITH: Yeah, and then he sent me, um, after basic training, I went Fort Ord, California for my eight weeks I think of basic training. Uh, I think pretty much everyone now knows what basic training's like, so that was a different kind of hell because it was just climbing up and down sand dunes.

HUNTLEY: Oh [chuckles]

SMITH: Which is worse than, you know, marching up and down highways and roads and up the mountain- geez, that was a nightmare. Got through that, and then went to a language school which was in the same- well, Fort Ord was in- oh, I forget the name of the town- but it was just outside of Monterey, California. And the language school is still in Monterey, so it wasn't much distance for me to go from basic, and then I went to Monterey to the barracks on the base. Today even, but back then, all the um, all the teachers who were not just native language speakers, um, but several of the Russian language people- I had one guy in particular had just gotten, had just defected in New York. He was in a Russian naval, merchant marine- he was on a Russian

freighter in New York harbor, and he just jumped ship and a week later he's in- he's at the language school teaching us Russian.

HUNTLEY: Oh wow, so if most of them were native speakers, were some of them native speakers who had always lived in the US, or most of them were born abroad?

SMITH: Oh no, no, these were, uh, [sighs] I don't know, again, what it's like today.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Cause it's been a while, but they were all- as far as I remember all the ones I had- and see, the classes were divided into one hour periods during the day so we had six, different periods during the day for training, and each one of those periods focused on a particular language skill: speaking, writing, oral comprehension- um, things like that. And then we had, you know, a whole curriculum that was developed by the military, um, to do that. And each one of those hours was taken up with a different Russian language teacher. Although, sometimes we had the same person for a couple of hours, and they were all- from what I remember- they were all from Russia, from the Soviet Union whether they were defectors or, um, I think most of them had- you know at the time, to- um, whenever groups of, you know, entertainers or whatever would come and go on a world tour, they'd always leave somebody behind.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles] Oh...

SMITH: You know somebody would- you know what I mean?

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So yeah, 'cause it was- it- and they- it always surprised me that the Soviets didn't like catch on immediately and just stop -

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: - that. But, you know, in my experience, so we all got- at least our class- got mostly these guys that had, uh, were just right off the boat which was a problem in the first few weeks as you can imagine as they don't know any English, and we don't know any Russian. But I credit the curriculum- the language learning curriculum that the DLI still has today. It's great- it- it kind of eased us into that.

HUNTLEY: So, what would be like- if you take one of those hours- what would you do during that hour?

SMITH: Well, one hour we went to a language lab and put headphones on, and we would be transcribing numbers. Later I could tell you how useful that was.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: At the moment, it might not seem so useful, and rapid fire- rapid fire numbering translation, transcription, and giving those numbers right because later it would be important for what I did in, um, in Germany when I was there. And then, another hour would be our vocabulary training. We'd, um, have a quiz every day, we'd have a quiz on a vocabulary list that we got the day before, and the controversy came in where the Army was teaching us, what vocabulary that they wanted us to learn, uh: tanks, planes, guns, ships, pohota, which is uh, um, um, uh words like, uh, company or platoon and ranks in the Soviet military and all that. And after a few months of that, you know, at the end of it, it shows a whole year, and at the end of it, we heard that another class after us, someone had actually got a lawyer and started suing the army which technically you can't because you can't sue the government. Uh, but out of that controversy, I was able- our class, and me in particular, was able to come back after the rest of my training, I was able to come back for another, um, advanced Russian language which didn't happen to anybody but it was just because of that controversy of the class before, the Army said, okay- the controversy is of course, we weren't learning things like, table, dust, chair- uh-uh, bananas or you know, stuff that people talk about more- more than they talk about tanks, things, and rockets- all that kind of vocabulary.

HUNTLEY: Oh, yeah.

SMITH: So- and that was the complaint. Apparently, the Army had realized that's a valid complaint, because when we're listening, my job was to, in part, was to listen to Russian voice communications and find out where they are in the order of battle- it's things like that later. So, the Army realized that yeah, the guys on the other end- our enemy- is- are humans too.

HUNTLEY: Yeah [chuckles]

SMITH: And they used- they don't just talk, you know, tanks, planes, guns, but they have normal conversations.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, I was able to- it was nice. I got advanced Russian language class, and then, I think you might have asked- I don't remember if you asked me this- the rest of the training after my first, after my first year in Russian language training they sent me here, to Goodfellow.

HUNTLEY: In San Angelo, Texas?

SMITH: For, for- in San Angelo, Texas, for two months, and that was to learn specifically to learn about Soviet technology, radio- but not- it was mostly Soviet military technology. From- at the time, the big bugaboo was the SCUD missile batteries, and how they communicated, and how they communicate. Um, order- targeting information so we had to know not just the language but know the equipment that they used, and how it's used. And, and that was two months here, and then after the two months here, they sent me to Fort Devons in Massachusetts which was the official Army Intelligence school where we learned uh, um, even more deeper stuff about, um, Soviet army operations, especially what at the time were called a group of Soviet forces in Germany so yeah, we were up against a NATO in Germany, and order of battle

commands information and so on, so. And I actually- and that might be a question later- I- I got a letter of commendation there for being- I graduated first of my class so I was a good little intelligent boy [chuckles]

HUNTLEY: Yeah, that's awesome. Um, okay, so we talked about your training, so, uh, Brian, do you want to take the next question?

MOHLER: Yeah, so why did you enlist and what was your train-

HUNTLEY: - the next one.

MOHLER: Number 7?

HUNTLEY: Yeah.

MOHLER: Okay yeah. Seeing how much I'm paying attention.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

MOHLER: So, what conception of the United States did you have at the time of your enlistment, and what did America symbolize or mean to you, and what did you think it stood for?

SMITH: Well's here where I'm going to throw in a little bit of Vietnam conflict-

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: - because when I was a freshman, I went to- it was called Lake Middle School Wisconsin, in a little town- it's Lake Mills high school and, uh, from my freshman year, 19... what would be '74, so 70-71, um, still Vietnam, and it was immediate post Kent State and all that. And from that point on, pretty much, on- I'm trying to think of the timing here, but, when you walked into the high school, there was a hallway [swallows] a hallway, then you go to the classes and the offices and everything, but there was a bit of a hallway there, and they- they started putting up pictures of, um, graduates of the high school that had died in Vietnam.

HUNTLEY: Mm-hmm

SMITH: And when I started as a freshman, I remember the first time I started walking down the hallway, a couple pictures up there, and when I graduated, full.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: Completely covered.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: In only four years later. And that's my attitude for you- about Vietnam. I mean- about Vietnam, so Mike- all the guys in my class of course, when we became seniors, we were a little scared, 'cause we were going to have our picture up there at some point, in time. We thought for sure here it comes, and then, you know that year of- I think it was '74, um, when we were seniors, it was kind of- you know. But we saw a little bit of the handwriting on the wall- a little bit earlier because we knew Nixon was- it was before that- he was already withdrawing troops. So, we, we kind of knew if he's withdrawing troops, he's not going to be sending us there. But then you know, crazy things happen.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And so, you know, I was getting a little nervous- so I guess the feeling- this was a little town in Wisconsin too, so it's relatively conservative so. And I grew up in a family that- my- my parents were- I don't know about hardcore- they were Goldwater Republicans.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: And uh, they still kind of, uh-

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: - you know what I mean [laughs] They're, 90- 91, 92.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: They're still...um, so I'm like a- grew up as a, maybe, right of center, I guess, and patriotic, sure. I mean small town that uh, John Millikan used to sing about in- in-

MOHLER: Yeah [chuckles]

SMITH: You know, small town.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Kinda conservative attitude of um- but not like America, uh, love it or leave it, but um [sighs] I mean yeah and- and- motivation for joining the Army, and I'll tell you, I think a lot of my friends who did join the army- military too- were of the same attitude- today it's more selfish than it was patriotic at all.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I had no idea what I wanted to do and that's, I think, a common theme. When you're- you know - when you're 18 years old too-

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: Oh yeah, right.

MOHLER: I'm 19- I have no idea what I want to do with my life [laughs]

SMITH: Yeah, see? You know- and- and I would highly recommend it to do it because it straightened me out- um- it did. And so, I do have kind of an attitude to change after I left.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And I think that might be another question here.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, so like, kind of thinking with those pictures in your high school, was the feeling about them supposed to be like, we're honoring them, or...

SMITH: Yes, yeah

HUNTLEY: Yeah. But for you- you and your friends, it was inspiring fear?

SMITH: Uh, well, both in all of that-

HUNTLEY: -Yeah-

SMITH: - emotion together.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: And I'll tell you something else, too, to maybe better understand this too, we lived- my mom had a really good friend, lady, that uh- our neighbors and I learned about this years later- I didn't know this, but um, I knew this at the time too that- um, um [stammers] one of her sons was a graduate of our high school maybe two years ahead of us, and he died in Vietnam and- close family. We were close with them.

HUNTLEY: Yeah.

SMITH: And I didn't know how much it affected my parents- my mom in particular- until one day, one summer- a long time later, I forget what I was doing, I was teaching somewhere- but I had a summer, I took a summer Russian language refresher course at Georgetown in Washington, and my parents came to visit me for a weekend, and we went to see the Vietnam Memorial. And we were walking down Adunis, and we start hitting- the guy's name is right at the tail end of the right-hand side. There are like, maybe three names kind of squished in it, the tail end there, and we were just walking- my mom was looking at it, and you know, you give- you can look up names in the book, and so she looked up this guy's name and found it out, and we walked to the end. And once we walked to the end- you ever see your mom cry?

HUNTLEY: whew

SMITH: [sighs] Yeah, I mean uh- well geez, man, that really- that'll never- I'll never forget that, and that kind of-

HUNTLEY: When she saw the person's name?

SMITH: Yeah, yeah. And you can- you can- they give you a, uh, piece of blank paper, and I grabbed a graphite lead thing that you can put it up there-

HUNTLEY: Yeah, to do the rubbing?

SMITH: Yeah, impressions of the name. And you can take that home with you, which is nice, I thought. That's a nice touch.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And then people, you know, put flowers in front of their names and it's so quiet, you can hear people, you know, holding back the tears, and it's just uh- cause I thought, you know, when that memorial was being considered, and they were- I remember all of the, um, artists that were being hired to-to- it was a competition for the design, and everything. And uh, I was among those that were outraged about the choice at the beginning. I was, because it seemed like they- like with the whole war, they were trying to bury it.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Because it's- but when you see it, now- it was well done. I think it was very well done.

So, I changed my mind about that too.

HUNTLEY: Brian, do you want to take the next question?

MOHLER: So, since your time in the military- has your con- conception of the United States as a whole changed?

SMITH: Mm-hmm [pause] [sighs]

HUNTLEY: You don't have to say anything if you don't want to. [laughs]

SMITH: Yeah, see- oh [sighs] yeah, I had never talked about this. I don't really tell- I don't really talk about his at all...

HUNTLEY: Yeah, we can skip-

SMITH: No, no, no I want-

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: I'll do it. Um [sighs] I'm going to preface by saying that things happened in those four years of my intelligence work, that I got a very- I'll preface by saying I got a very deep- what I feel is a very deep understanding of what we faced at the time and what we face today as a country and who we are as a country as well, and I- I've become more patriotic because I [sighs again] um, I was stationed- when I say right on the border, I mean right on the border- right on the Iron border- the- the Iron Curtain. We were right there; it was only maybe six of us. We lived in a little German village, and we were spies, is all I can say. And we were tasked with, um, two things- two specific things, very specific things that we were required to do. Um, one is to gather as much information on the order of battle- order of battle information. Identify the units, their strength, what they're capable of doing, what they're- what they're assigned to do, and what they're capable of doing which is maybe two different things. And at the time, the big bugaboo was um, not, nuclear weapons, but, uh, chemical weapons and the whole Soviet, and today Russian philosophy was- hasn't changed. Has been- um, they adapted the Nazi blitzkrieg mentality, and uh, blow a hole open and move as fast as you can. And- and they still see today that one thing that will help them- I'm not making this up- but chemical weapons and nerve gas will help- this'll just drop, and they can move through that hole. And at the time, we were tasked with trying to, uh, find out where all the new SKUNK missile batteries were. And um, an so- and- and- I'm mentioning the border and being right on the border because it's- as a geographer I appreciate if people- and I sometimes I'll show this in my class too- the border fortifications themselves. And I know- we were one of the few people I believe that saw both sides in action, and um, we had all the top-secret, all the top-secret security clearances you can get a special background in: special compartment information, I had a top-secret logic clearance, and all the, everything because we had to have as top- as high clearance as possible because of all the

engineers. So, we got to see both sides, and NATO- we contributed to NATO response plans, to them- obviously our job was to discover what Soviet plans are like, and in the landscape you can see that this kind of confirmed what we were seeing from both sides. I am so adamant about this; I can't tell you- NATO has always been a defensive organization. Every single plan that we ever contributed or saw about, NATO's response was always defensive- never offensive. And it just pisses me off when I hear Putin today, you know, and the claims by Soviet Russians over the past about NATO's offensive. I just want to scream about- I- I've seen- no, you're wrong, and if you've seen, if you saw the fortifications along the border too, you would see that it's so obvious that those border fortifications are by the way were put up by the Soviets and not by us. We had nothing- there was a west German stake at the border of West Germany and that's it. It went maybe like a hundred yards- every hundred yards there's this little stake and then that was the little border. Then you go to the East and there was a little open ground and then there were a fence and then a plowed field and then behind that, guard towers, and then patrols and everything. It was all on their side. Just obvious, you know, seeing this every day for four years, it was obvious that just looking at it, that they were trying to keep people in, they weren't trying to keep us out.

HUNTLEY: Ooh, yeah

SMITH: They were trying to keep people in, you know what I mean?

HUNTLEY: Yeah, that's-

SMITH: Which is just a- just a- but I'm only saying that as a piece of my puzzle and it formulated my opinion about us; it doesn't mean that I think we're great, you know, America first. I don't know, cause I've seen the warts on us too.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: However, yeah, I've become, I think, that um- you know, I tell my students too, that I've learned that it's not good or bad- we're not better or worse but we're just different. And I would prefer our differences over another country's differences. And that's- that's- that's my speech.

HUNTLEY: Uh, before I- do you need to-

MOHLER: I- yeah, I mean I have class like right now.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

MOHLER: So, I'm-

HUNTLEY: Yeah, thanks for joining us.

MOHLER: Well, yeah, it's been wonderful. Um, alright.

HUNTLEY: We'll finish up

MOHLER: I appreciate it.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, sorry

MOHLER: Excuse me [sounds of movement, bag rustling]

HUNTLEY: Do you want to take this with you?

MOHLER: Uh- sure. I mean, it's mostly notes for this kind of stuff so I can leave it with you here.

HUNTLEY: We'll give you first crack at um, doing the transcription.

MOHLER: I appreciate it. Thank you.

HUNTLEY: Thanks. Alright, uh, so let's see... You said you were deployed overseas-

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: Um, do you want to talk about where you were deployed over- or well-

SMITH: Yeah, yeah...

HUNTLEY: Yeah, where you were deployed overseas.

SMITH: Yeah sure. Um [clears throat] the unit- the specific unit that I was attached to, was the 326th [unsure] Forward Operations Company, but they were attached to a larger intelligence battalion that was headquartered in Augsburg, Germany which is just outside of Munich. And um, so when I was assigned to this and- and that company was actually headquartered in Augsburg, and the Augsburg base- it was the 504th ASA Battalion that was headquarters for our intelligence stuff- why- first, I should actually mention this too- hopefully this isn't too convoluted but that whole four years that I spent in, doing all this stuff, we weren't technically in the Army.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: We had uniforms. We were in the Army, but it turns out all our job was supervised by the NSA- the National Security Agency.

HUNTLEY: Oh, I didn't realize that organization was that old.

SMITH: Oh yeah, oh yeah- yeah

HUNTLEY: Oh [chuckles]

SMITH: They were, yeah, the NSA- the 'No Such Agency'.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: At Fort Marion- that's where all our reports went to, and we got all our guidance- and they would give us assignments and all that- it never came through any military command structure. This was our- this was our Army, um, technically, our Army job- our Army- I don't know, what do you call it?

HUNTLEY: Mission?

SMITH: Um, employer.

HUNTLEY: Ah, okay.

SMITH: Just an employer, but- but we were- I guess you could say we were contracted out to the NSA.

HUNTLEY: Right

SMITH: We were working for the Army, but we were contracted to the NSA all the time.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, all our stuff was fed through, um, the NSA, and I mention that because, um, you know how you periodic, see that 504th intelligence battalion in Augsburg and a company that was all in Augsburg, but they operated three border sites along the, um, border with um, East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

HUNTLEY: Okay

SMITH: And I think that two of them were significant. Um, there was one up north in the British Zone where a few of my colleagues after language school were assigned and I was assigned to the place called Mount Schneeberg which was, um, I don't know if you can visualize a map, but it was where East Germany and West Germany and Czechoslovakia joined together.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay.

SMITH: It's right there, and right across the border inside the Czech- Czechoslovakia- was a major, uh, Warsaw Pact training base, and uh, I have stories about that too.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: And that we kind of targeted- we got- we targeted everybody in that area but that was a main focus of ours because the group of Soviet forces in Germany there whenever a new- the

Russians and Soviets had developed some kind of new technology, the first units in the whole world that would get that technology would be this training base where they would test new technology and stuff. So, you know, we got assignments often from NSA, and especially finding out where the SCUD missile batteries were because they were chemically- chemical warfare enabled and the instructions on where to drop a chemical or a, um, yeah, a nerve gas bomb or something. Even- not nuclear, that was a little separate- but chemical and biological weapons, warheads- that very rarely, if at all, would a company- a Soviet company level commander had the ability to call in a strike like that but at the time, and during the period that I was there, the Soviets down to the company commander level which would be a captain, had the ability to call in a chemical strike. Now it could be any kind of chemical- could even be like tear gas, or um, white phosphorus- whatever- whatever they wanted to, but they had that capability and that's kind of significant for the Soviet soldier, Russian centralized mentality, you know, that they, you know, you don't turn life to riot unless you know, you get permission from us, Moscow.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: But it showed just uh- and I know all this because when I got to the border site I was assigned as an extra duty- I'm sup- I was the nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare NCO for our unit, and I was responsible for training our guys in responding to it- a chemical attack, in particular- a nerve gas attack in particular. We had, you know, I had to train them at the gas- using the gas mask. Gas masks have filters in them, and the filters are designed for different types of gas, and so on. Basically, I had to get these guys to, um, from the first sign of an attack

to fully cloth with a gas mask- had to be, and I'll never forget this, and for some- I never knew why- nine seconds, we had nine seconds- I don't know why not ten or eight.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: But the NSA and the Army in their infinite wisdom said we got to practice and practice until you can get those masks on in nine seconds. Um, which was crazy because if what was a sarin nerve gas, just one drop would kill a battalion of people.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And also- it- it absorbs in the skin so, you know, and what was ridiculous about it too, was that those filters on our, on our gas masks were literally classified. So, the nerve gas filters were classified top-secret, and anything classified top-secret has to have a lock on it, stored with a lock on it, and a guard, so.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, we got nine seconds, and you'd call the guard here and get him to unlock the safe-

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: - pull out all the nerve gas filters, stick 'em in there, and then put your gas mask on- all in nine seconds. It was silly.

HUNTLEY: So, wait- when did nine seconds start? From the time you or the person started to unlock everything?

SMITH: [sighs] Well, it started when there was any indication- and we were trained to know- in, in seeing-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: - the special [sighs, laughs] the what you got- the way- you know, when a dispersion was a controversy. That's when I'm having the problem.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Because, because um, [sighs] the problem with, the problem with- the problem with warheads is that they explode and for biological weapons and nuclear- for biological warheads in particular, there's, there's, um, there's temperature and pressure involved when a bomb goes off which will kill all the biological agents so it's difficult to do- to disperse it that way. Chemical agents are a little bit different but kind of similar to biological agents so the delivery system is a bit subtle, and you can tell that it's just- some like the mustard gas is like a yellow cloud or

something and you get some tell-tale smells- signs before, before it actually gets to you. Some of the traditional chemical agents.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So- so, you know, you just keep your eyes open and ears open and that's when the nine seconds would start.

HUNTLEY: Oh, any indication- oh wow

SMITH: Yeah, when you would recognize it.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay.

SMITH: Yeah

HUNTLEY: Well, so you talked a bit about, um, how you reflected on your unit's mission with regards to NATO being offensive and everything. Do you want to say anything else about that?

So, the question is, while you were deployed overseas, did you reflect much on or about your unit's mission or how you believed in it- or how much you believed in it?

SMITH: Um, 24/7.

HUNTLEY: Yeah [laughs]

SMITH: Uh, yeah, 24/7, but we were, you know, constantly bombarded with a reminder of the importance of what we were doing. At the end of the day, you know some- we worked a regular day, like seven in the morning 'till maybe four or five at night, in the afternoon, and then we go home and we usually- cause there were only maybe six of us- and we lived in a village, a German village, and we rented apartments in the general village, and then our job was up on a mountaintop, close to the border, and um, we'd all have dinner together and whatever. And one day- and I mean on the weekends we'd party- and then- but 24/7, somebody was on the site. We would trade places with guard duty, and there were always two of us because we had top secret information constantly on site and gathering all that top secret information. And technically, and even today, top-secret information- whatever the other classification- it has to be in a special container with a special lock on it, and it also has to have a physical guard- at least one physical person guard- guarding it.

HUNTLEY: Wow

SMITH: If it's top secret. Secret, it's different. It has to be locked away and it doesn't necessarily have to have a human guard there 24/7.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, we had to have two of us- out of the six- had guard duty so we did that. We may be rotated for two weeks for each of us, we take guard duty at night, five till, uh, seven in the morning. Um, and there are a lot of things that happen- things were happening all the time. The funny phrase to me is Cold War-

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: - because it was all- 'cause we were running the border- it was really a hot place.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: There's so many examples I could give you if we had so much time- but there's one example, like a year before I left. I don't know if you've heard this story about, um, an East German family had- had created, built, whatever, a balloon in their- in the, in the loft of a barn on the East German side, and they- one night they- hot air, filled it up, and floated across into West Germany. And we got- this was in the middle of the night- we got a- what's called a critical message from NSA 'cause they wanted to know what's the hell happening- what's happening-

[both laugh]

SMITH: So, it was like a mile or so away from, from where we were. The West Germans had already picked them up.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, it was happening all the time. One day, you know, we'd go to work, and we're trying to enter- we had Czech linguists too, Czechoslovakian language specialists that were also taught at the language school that I did. So, there were three Russians and three Czech linguists, and um, um, we- one- there's so many of these stories [chuckles] one day, during the day, um, we're listening in on a- the- the radio stations that we were operating with, and- and listening to. Um, I would be a Russian guy listening to Russian communications in this chair, and my friend next- sitting next to me would be doing the Czech languages and dialing through the frequencies. And one day I was sitting there, and he was sitting here, and we were just normally dialed through the frequencies and all of a sudden, he goes, he's like this, and all of a sudden, he goes [gestures] like this

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: And he goes like this, and you know what we do. We weren't just listening; we were also transcribing. I think today now they have two different positions- we tap, record and intercept and then there's somebody else to transcribe it, but we do both, all four years. Great for language, um, comprehension.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: Um, and he just went like this, and I go, what in the world- it scared the shit out of him. What are you doing? And it turns out, he dialed through, and he got to a- he got to a frequency

where um, he was listening to communications of our troops. Now, the border was set up where I said there was, uh, West German posts and then there was their communist fences and all that. But we also had right along the border a dirt road, and the- in our sector, it was the second armored cavalry regiment that patrolled the border back and forth just as a, you know, US Army presence along with the um, German Bundesgrenzschutz, they called the Special West German Border Guards, in- in cooperation with them. And that was just a guard duty assignment back and forth. And we got- what he was listening to, was a communication by a G patrol- our second command Armored G patrol- they were being shot at. You can hear the- you can hear the bullets ricocheting, and the uh, voice communication you could tell when we listened to it, that um, there was- there were, um how do I put this, different accents? Cause we were in a military from all over the United States so I could tell a southern accent, East- New England accent, and so on- and they- it sounded- oh my god.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: And- and one of the guys was saying that uh, uh, my friend was shot, please send help, and they're like screaming, and uh, and so, our- our duty in that regard or anything that we thought was critical- um, the NSA still has this in place- where we were allowed to send what was called a critic message- it's short for critical message- and technically, that message should be on the president's desk within ten minutes of receiving it and recognizing what it is so once you recognize what it is, that transmission was supposed to be translated and everything and should be on the president's desk in ten minutes. That's how serious you take it. Now obviously,

they're rare. So, the commander that we had for over the six of us was a sergeant first class- so we didn't even have an officer [snorts] and so he's got to decide- that poor guy, you know.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: You know, the- the responsibility that 18, 19, 20, 21 year old kids have is impressive, and he had to decide, you know, yeah, he sent a critic message out, and it went through all the channels, and for the next couple of weeks, we had a parade of high ranking officers and NATO generals coming back and forth wanting to listen to the tape. It turns out, um, we were just, you know, one of several collection sites, and, you know, other information that NSA gets out all over, and turns out it was an elaborate Soviet disinformation exercise. They wanted- they were testing us to see how quick we react to something like this and just to see, you know, and just to mess with us whereas we would use stronger language in the army, you know, just to-

HUNTLEY: [laughs] Yeah

SMITH: -just to mess with us, as it turns out, but we didn't know for a few days. We thought, you know, this is like an act of war!

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And-and what scared us too, was that we're so close to the border, they knew where we were at, and if the weather was right, we could see another- I say mountain, it's more like a hill- on the other side we saw their antennas and those guys doing the same thing that we're doing.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Our counterparts on the other side, and um, it was kind of scary for a while, that uh, that something was going to happen. And then there were all the other incidences too, you know, like aircraft navigation, um, helicopters straying across the border, both sides kind of react, well, you know-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, it wasn't necessarily- it was not a calm place during the Cold War.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, things were happening all the time. I mean one time, we um, at the end of the day, were out- we usually had dinner at a German restaurant there, and we were visited by the um, army counterintelligence guy- army counterintelligence captain came and wanted to talk to several of us because, um [laughs] it's another scary thing! What did we do wrong?

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: And what happened was, um, he told us that they got information that we were consorting with- how did he put it- we were consorting with East- known East German operators and that we should stop it.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: And I- course, we were going, what the hell are you talking about? [laughs] and apparently, you know, we would go to just so many German villages so close by, right, so we would go to one or another at the end of the day and party.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: You know? And the disco-tecs- I guess they called them at the time- and apparently, some, you know, one of the common tactics- and even today- is for them- for the other side to gather information is- what do you call them- uh, honeypots, honeypot things.

HUNTLEY: Oh, okay

SMITH: Yeah, apparently that was an operation that came through some channel and Army counterintelligence heard about it, and we just wanted to caution you guys, we won't identify who these people are, we're not going to tell you who they are, but um, just be careful. Because we did have- and from the beginning, from my training here at Goodfellow, all the way to the

end, we were constantly told how important our clearances were. For example, um, literally, believe it or not, we had to, um, when we were sleeping in the barracks- if you were sleeping, we were in nighttime and you heard a friend talking in his sleep, you had to report him.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: You had to tell somebody that he's talking in his sleep. Now he may even lose his security clearance for that.

HUNTLEY: Woah

SMITH: If I go in for like dental work and they put me under or any kind of surgery or anything where they put you under, you have to, you have to inform- someone, someone special will come in into the operating room, and watch the whole operation, and listen so that under anesthesia my burts of mob- like something that I had learned that's classified.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: They take it really seriously. And they still do.

HUNTLEY: Um, yeah so it seems like that, that constant would make you- you're always thinking about the missions, like, um, yeah.

[Huntley & Smith laugh]

SMITH: Yeah- it's like- I mean, well, not really.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Alcoholism was a problem.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Yeah, happened to a couple of friends of mine- it was- I think he did lose his security clearance over that too.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: He was- yeah. Cause, you know the beer flows freely in Germany.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles] Well, speaking of, um, so what did you think of the local inhabitants that you encountered there that, um- that's um-

SMITH: Yeah, that's another interesting-

HUNTLEY: -that's um-

SMITH: - and speaking from a geographer's point of view, um so that was a part of the, um, of Germany where, um, you know, at the end of World War II, the Soviet and American forces met at the Alp, and it was in that area that was very amorphous, you know? First the Russian-Russian soldiers would come in and occupy the territory and then Americans and British- they would go back and forth until the Armistice and ceasefire, and then um, the agreement that we were going to a piece of- a piece of our American occupied Germany. We're going to give a piece of that territory up so that we could have a presence in Berlin. And uh, and so, we did that, and the point is, the older population when I was in the Army there loved us. They understood. They physically saw and experienced the two different occupation forces in how they were treated.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And I remember several of the old German guys are telling us that we much prefer you Americans here. And the stories about the Russians, you know, rape and pillages, was not harsh words for it because that's what happened, and so- and they remember. And you know, their kids- they remember too, so. But the farther you get away from the border, that's you know, especially then too- controversy about American troop presence- soldiers' presence in Germany-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: That's pretty, widespread. So, you know it depends on what location we were at, but we had great relations with the local population. They were very nice to us, and they saw- you know, we were- we were told that ASA people were like the top two percent in the Army which I was kind of, maybe kind of laughed, because I knew what the criteria for was, you know.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: I don't know what they used for the criteria. Maybe- I don't know cause, just because uh, I know a language doesn't mean I'm better than anybody else.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: It all kind of struck me as weird, but we did do really, what I thought was very important- important work.

HUNTLEY: Yeah. So, you see- so it says- our next question is when you interacted with local inhabitants, what do you think their conception was of the United States, and did you engage with them in conversation about America?

SMITH: [sighs]

HUNTLEY: So, you said the- your interactions with them close to the border were generally that they were glad to have you there, and that farther away from the border it changed.

SMITH: Well, you did- I mean we're dealing with human beings so different personalities and everything you know.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Some people were nice- mostly nice to us. Some not, but only because personality clashes, not because you're American or German. Um, so [sighs] they were just very nice local German population. They just wanted to get on with their lives in peace, and they recognize for the most part, they recognize that we were there to help them live in peace.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Because and you can- every day when you see, again, the geography of the border, and the alternatives that they have, they saw that it was better to have us there than the other way around.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: That was the general feeling. But then, you know, there's some Germans that didn't like us, and then there were some Germans that did only because of personality clashes [snorts]

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: You know- I don't know how- to make it sound bad- but the beer did flow freely.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: The stress, you know, sometimes um, the stress got to be a little much. I'll tell you for me the one time that scared me the most, and I thought maybe about writing it and publishing an article on this because it- I don't- you don't ever hear anything about this, but what happened in- was it January and February of 1978, you know, Vietnam just ended but Cambodia and Pol Pot- the Cambodian stuff was going on-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: - all through the latter half of the 1970's, and Cambodia was a vassal state of Communist China, and Vietnam of course was allied with the Soviet Union, and in the 70's- '60's and 70's- the Chinese and the Soviets weren't getting along very well, and China had jumped both feet into supporting Pol Pot, and the Vietnamese and the Cambodians have never gotten along with one another ever. And um, I mean, you know with Nixon and what led to Kent State and all that stuff- um, bombing Cambodia secretly and all that stuff.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: Um, it all fit into the late 1970's where, um, Vietnam apparently, well, there were tension between Vietnam and Cambodia, and it dragged in the Russians and Chinese and they were starting- the Russians and the Chinese were starting to ratchet up the, uh, [mimics angry talking mockingly] and um, ratchet up the antagonism- antagonizing both sides. And we saw it in our work- in the sense that, in our gathering of information, order of battle and so on, especially in that, that staging area right across the border, Warsaw Pact troops, we noticed one day that um, they were beginning to move troops out. I was on a- we had [sighs] several things going on in our sight. Only a few of us, but we were doing all kinds of stuff, and one of the things that I was doing was what was called a multi-channel intercept technology, where we could listen in on phone conversations. It was broadcast in- over particular frequencies, and one day I was playing around with that, and I listen- I was listening to a, um, it turns out to be a Soviet General. And what he was talking about was cracking a- I got my other colleagues to listen to this 'cause it was hilarious. He was talking to his mistress in Moscow.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: He says don't tell my wife- you know, you know, they were- they were sweet nothings into their ears, you know and all that- and we was just cracking up- and then, all of a sudden, he told her that don't be, um don't be upset if you, um, don't hear from me in the next couple of weeks- just, cause we're moving out. And that [tch sound] ding, ding, ding!

HUNTLEY: [laughs] Right over your headphones

SMITH: Where it all goes- yeah. And that's when I, you know, hit the record button and it turns out they were reinforcing the Soviet Chinese border. They were sending all these- top of the line- this is where the best of the cream of the crop Soviet forces were stationed- in a group of Soviet forces in Germany. And they were moving out- not just units, but the ones that we were tasked to find out who they are and where they were. It's got missile batteries, for a big part of it, and they were moving them, reinforcing the Chinese border. And for those two months, I don't know if you remember, if you know about what happened, but the Chinese invaded North Vietnam, they came, you know, several miles inland into North Vietnam, and that was a point in January, I think, of '78, that things started snowballing to me. They started moving units out of Czechoslovakia and East Germany like nobody's business. We're all going, damn, is this going- is this going to be a shooting war between Soviet Union and China? And at the time, a billion people, versus the Soviet military, and we could hear in their voices that they were scared that they were going to get into something with the Chinese. So that was- I think if I had to point at anything that scared us the most at the time, it was going to be a shooting war. And if there was, and we were dragged into it, we were dead. Cause I'll tell you another story [laughs]

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: - that happened. There was a, um, Russian linguist, me and my good friend- who's a Czech linguist- and we were often were sitting there together intercepting stuff, and I told you about the numbers I had to transcribe? I had to transcribe these numbers- well, it came in handy because SCUD- and they called them frog missiles which were free medium range rockets overground- not unguided missiles that they stuck chemical warheads on. Um that technology,

um, well both of those technologies, they reported targeting information in numerical matrixes- a matrix of numbers. And so one day, you know, I was intercepting this, and it started blurting out numbers so I started, and I saw a pattern- you know, I'm taking these numbers down, and so in a long list I transcribed them, and did my job and sent them off, and then a week later, he, my friend, and I- cause he did- he was doing the same thing as some Czech linguist doing the similar numbers, taking them down, and we were curious about what the hell it was all about, but oftentimes, you might not know the result of what we were doing, but we were invited by- the two of us were invited by the NSA to come down to Augsburg to headquarters one day. And so, we were going [snorts] what did we do wrong- cause in the Army, nobody says, oh you did a good job.

HUNTLEY: Yeah [laughs]

SMITH: Yeah, so we had to go down for a week in Augsburg and we went through- we went to the headquarters and the NSA had their own little site within the site, and we- I remember the two of us walking down this labyrinth of hallways and we get to this darkened room and there's in the middle is a square desk, and there's a clear- you know - plexiglass thing over the tabletop, and we look in and there's a computer sunk in there and there's a man- there's a map and the NSA guy- two NSA guys were began to tell us, y'all- we thought, we'd call you down here because we wanted to show you, you know, the results of this intercept that you got us and um [snorts] those matrix of numbers was targeting information and they don't know that we know who they're specifically targeting. And so, they were showing us the targeting information, and then one of the wise-ass NSA guys points to this dot that's us on there, the computer map, points

to us and you guys took down targeting information- you took down targeting information on you.

HUNTLEY: Oh [laughs]

SMITH: That's, that's you guys. And they wanted to see our reaction.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: This is just, you know, f-ing with us.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Partly. We weren't happy to go to Augsburg.

HUNTLEY: Yeah...

SMITH: But, if things like that happened, you know, and that's scary too, because now from that point on, we're- we all knew that if any shooting war started, we would've been the first to go. support American troops and American forces because we're still in the Army too. So, we were attached to the 7th Army Core, and we would provide them with intelligence, order of battle information- so for technical purposes, but as long as there were no shooting war, we were strategic evidence gathered. If there was a shooting war, we would switch to tactical.

HUNTLEY: Wow. So, apart from being called down to Augsburg-

SMITH: Mm-hmm?

HUNTLEY: -did you receive any special medals, recognitions for your service such as a Purple Heart? If so, explain the circumstances related to that. So, you said you got that commendation-letter of commendation-

SMITH: Yeah, I got that- I don't know if that's a pet peeve of mine.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: Maybe it's just a pet peeve of mine- you know, it wasn't a conflict, conflict place, but we did get by the way all kinds of perks. We had, um, we got combat pay, we got, um, extra housing pay, we got all kinds of perks. If we bought a car in Europe, they would ship it back home for free, and all kinds of perks we got from the job. But you know, a Purple Heart or things like that were, you know, formally in formal conflict.

HUNTLEY: Right

SMITH: Well, that's fine.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: But I did get, yes, several letters of commendation and a good conduct medal, and we got, um, a unit citation- several unit citations- um, one for, you know, targeting things, and one we got- just the few of us- we got a unit- a unit commendation for um, a specific incident that happened. I told you- there was equipment, new Soviet equipment always being introduced, and the very brand-new guns and things that they were introducing to the Soviet military were first sent to our neck of the woods. And on the side- I told you we had linguists, but we also had a couple communication specialists, and we also had a couple of radar intercept guys who had an oscilloscope, and they would try to intercept radar signals. And at the time, they had intercepted some radar signals that they hadn't ever seen before- signatures. Anyway, they're all wondering what it is and then suddenly, we all got a NSA directive saying alright, we want you to jump on that, and all efforts for a few days were directed toward that- to finding out what that, that new signal was, where it was coming from, and what it meant. Turned out, that that was a very significant self-propelled anti-aircraft gun- um, it was a 20 mm gun or something that had a little radar dish so mobile anti-aircraft gun, and the reason why everyone was so excited about it was that in our defensive NATO plans, that blitzkrieg would be led by tank battalions and tank regiments coming through, and the only way at the time that NATO could figure out besides a neutron bomb to stop something like that is that we- we have always had the best, you know, helicopter gun ship technologies- Vietnam- and so, a big part of our response would've been, um, anti-tank operations against them- these tanks- but using helicopters. But that was- that was- and is, still- a mobile Russian artillery, very affective, artillery targeting low flying aircrafts, especially against helicopters so we got a commendation for identifying the radar signature, and

um, see all this is top secret so if this ever got back, they would change the frequency, you know. This is why, you know, I hear about- I'll tell you, what really upsets me about this whole Trump thing, you know he's indicted for like four things or something- the only thing that I think I would throw him in the deepest pit in hell and throw away the key myself- frankly, I feel strongly about it [laughs]

HUNTLEY: Yeah [laughs]

SMITH: - is, is this, uh, classified information. The nonchalance- the nonchalance attitude is, um, - and I know my friends feel the same way- my colleagues, former colleagues, we're on contact with each other, you know. That's the nice thing about the military. You're friends for life. But that's the one thing on the side, I suppose.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: One thing that has really burred up my butt about it, is cause no really understands the importance of-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: -they're so nonchalant with that information, and people- people are literally dying. I know. And subsequent work that I've done after the military, I've known the information that was gotten out has led to several deaths- and- is there enough time? For me to give a-

HUNTLEY: Uh, depends

SMITH: To give you a-

HUNTLEY: Yeah, probably, I mean, like depending on your schedule [handles recorder]

SMITH: I probably got class at one.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, that's where we need to- that's where I need to go to, so we've got about- yeah, go on.

SMITH: Oh, okay. Cause there is one, one thing out of my army career that I'd like to mention, and that is um, well two things actually. The first is the people that I worked with. We were very close and as you can imagine, the stuff that we did we thought was very important. So, if you ask me, do I have a different attitude about it now, America, the military- well, kind of. Yeah, 'cause we were, we like to think we were doing something important, but I'd like to think I now can step back and see the whole picture, thankfully. Partly because of the stuff that I did in the military, and we certainly have our goofballs, but we're trying. Now that's my attitude-

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: - but um, but one of the guys and he was a communications specialist, and he would take our stuff, and he was the guy who encrypted it, and reported it to NSA- always sent our stuff. And I say- we were close because if we ever got a three-day pass, off we went to like Monaco, off we went to Italy, off we went somewhere, you know.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles] Yeah

SMITH: Exploring the place. And he- Jim Hall, was his name- James Hall the third- three.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: That's significant because believe it or not, today he has his own Wikipedia page.

HUNTLEY: Oh wow

SMITH: I didn't know this until after I left the army- he stayed in when I left- he stayed in, and they had reassigned him to Berlin- the Berlin station. By the way, our clearances were so high level that at the time- for the whole time that I was there, we were not allowed to fly anywhere, to go anywhere. We were not allowed specifically to go to Berlin. We wanted to visit Berlin for Berlin, for crying out loud!

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: But we're not allowed because we're not allowed specifically to fly over any enemy territory.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: They had corridors, you know, to go to Berlin, but we wouldn't fly [chuckles] we were specifically not allowed to do that. And so, after I left- he got a- he stayed in the Army, became, a- a warrant officer in Berlin, and by that time I had a grant to go study in the Soviet Union- I had a Fulbright to go there, and that's where- and here I am [claps hands]

HUNTLEY: [chuckles] Yeah

SMITH: And um, but I'm mentioning him because when I came back from the Soviet Union after that Fulbright- um, you know all this time by the way, the CIA is trying to recruit me [snorts] I mean, this is another story and a half, but [chuckles] Jesus, no, that was- that's interesting in itself. But this guy, we went on trips together. And when I came back from my, um, trip to the Soviet Union, my time, that year I spent in the Soviet Union, I was talking with, uh, another friend of mine from the Army days, and he tells me, you should- you should call Jim, he's kind of- he's kind of feeling low. That's what he said- he's kind of feeling low. He would love to hear from you. And I said, oh yeah sure- where's he at? Leavenworth. He goes- Leavenworth! [laughs] I go, call- okay, so is he a guard? Is he, you know, assigned to Leavenworth? No.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: No, and it just blew me away 'cause you know, it was very close. He's, um, when he went to Berlin, one day he just thought, you know, it's an easy way a- a way to make money. All of these communications and stuff goes through him. Easy enough to- there's a copy machine right there- it's easy enough to make some copies. He got a- he, um, was recruited by the Stasi in East Germany, he's mentioned- mentioned in several chapters of the, of the- it's a famous book on the East German Stasi 'cause he was recruited by them through a Turk who was operating a motor pool there. And he just said one day, I felt like you know, I deserve more money. So, he says, he goes, he goes I'm not particularly patriotic or- I'm not particularly- he says I'm, you know, I don't consider myself to be a traitor, he says, I only did it for the money. And it- and it- when the Soviet Union fell in 1991, and well, even before then in 1990, I guess, the East Germany and the West Germany, you know, the East Germany communist party left and all the Stasi files were now available, at least for a small period of time. Historians were able to get in there, and this guy wrote a book about it, and it turns out that this guy- the, um, Stasi handler for him, um, was willing to talk, and the military heard he was willing- let's go interview him, and just as casual conversation with this guy, in interviewing him, he mentioned Jim's name and it all unraveled for him. And um, yeah, he was providing- and one of the, one of the pieces of information that he provided was aided- you know, we had a, we had a, NATO had a military leader liaison mission, it was called, to the Soviet side, and we had- and the Soviets had a Soviet military liaison mission to our side. And they were- they were only allowed to go to certain places to watch, you know, we each got to watch each other's practicing, so.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: But both sides used it as a spying kind of opportunity also, and I mean, one day they come up to our site one day- you can tell because they had special license plates- and they came up and started snapping pictures, and my friend and I grabbed our M16, and ran out, waving M16- you're not supposed to be- oh, you're not supposed to be anywhere near us!

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And we had- we had- we had a specific directive from Jimmy Carter himself to use deadly force to defend it- because of that top secret stuff we had on there. So, anyway, that mission was going on, and apparently Jim, one the of the pieces of information he gave them was about a major and a sergeant who were in a U.S.- a NATO military liaison mission on the other side and they were- they were driving him somewhere they weren't supposed to be, and the Soviets were waiting for them because of the information that Jim gave them. They were going to be here at this moment in time. And one of the Soviet guards killed the major.

HUNTLEY: Oh...

SMITH: It's in Wikipedia too- one of the Soviet guards killed that major and that's where, um, you know, I'm still friends with him, but what can you- Jesus, what's the matter with you? And then-

HUNTLEY: So, all the time you knew him?

SMITH: He got; he got twenty-two years- I even got pictures of us

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: He got twenty-two years. Um, this was in the late 1980's, Soviet Union fell 1991, so for those two years, yeah, he was a legitimate inmate at Leavenworth because of what he did, but then, it was worth- what, how- how much was it worth to you, Jim, because, you know, in the next twenty years, he's in Leavenworth and none of it mattered.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: You know? What a waste of um- it's very sad, actually.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I don't- well, I don't want to say that's my claim to fame. That's not my claim to fame, but he's in a, he's got a nice- I mentioned that Wikipedia page on him because it does give a good- a bit of a good background in the NSA and specifically Mount Schneeberg, the site that we were stationed at. That might give you more information on- on what we did.

HUNTLEY: Yeah.

SMITH: But I wanted to stick that in there because-

HUNTLEY: Yeah, that's wild

SMITH: Cause it's still- yes, it's still, um, it still blows my mind cause I knew him. When we were off, we were friends, you know, and to have him do something like that, I just can't-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: - understand his argument that you know, I just wanted the money. And then he kept doing it. I mean, he came- he was reassigned back to the states, to Fort Mead, and, um, the army, the way they caught him was, you know, an FBI informant that was pretending to be a Soviet handler or Russian handler now- said, are you interested in continuing this now, cause you don't- and he says, sure. And they were, met in a restaurant, and he was, he was arrested, and all this is recorded on tape. Guy's, uh, but he was released in 2011- he got out and was released and then, he um- and from that point on, none of them- none of us know what happened. All we know is that he made a beeline for Germany- cause he knows German- he married a German- he married a German girl that he was- was his girlfriend in Germany when we were in the Army. And he subsequently married her- I don't know whatever happened to her, and his wife, but he has disappeared.

HUNTLEY: [sneezes]

SMITH: He's somewhere in Germany, and he's totally disappeared. I know I spoke to a, uh, what is it- Das Build, or some German newspaper or magazine or something- some journalist was trying to track him down, but nobody can find him. I would be hiding too, you know?

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: Cause, geez, or maybe he's the kind of guy- I mean, we thought we knew him. That's weird. So anyway, that's one thing- that's one thing I wanted to tell- I'm forgetting the second thing. [sighs] but that's one thing I wanted to mention too [sighs] I wouldn't have never sit down and recorded this like this. Feels good to get it- I've never talked about this with anybody.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Ever, you know.

HUNTLEY: Do you want to talk about, um, gender or race relations in your unit?

SMITH: Yeah, I could do that- oh yeah, I can do that.

HUNTLEY: Yeah [chuckles]

SMITH: Um, yeah. It's surprising.

HUNTLEY: And then we can talk about civilian life.

SMITH: Well racial- racial- yeah, actually, thank you for mentioning that cause that is a- I mean, you don't really realize it. I didn't really realize it. I was- I grew up in a little town in Southern Wisconsin, during maybe 5,000 people at the most I want to- in that little town so we all knew each other, and um, growing- going to that high school, I remember that there was only one African-American family, and in, um, the class ahead of me- when I was a freshman, he'd be a sophomore- from that family, and he was good on the football team- the football team, and I wasn't big enough to play football, but- but I- I wanted to- I was a manager for those four years cause I liked it and we got to know each other. And that's my only contact with anybody that was- European or American, whatever you want to call me, we were all pretty, you know, Midwestern white types. And uh, it- it just didn't ma- I mean, he just fit in so well it was never- everyone fit in so well- you know, with 20/20 hindsight, I remember at the time, nobody had thought about- it wasn't, it was never an issue that I can even remember, and he fit in so well, and we were all fine. So, when I joined- when I joined the Army, that was a uh [sighs] that's when I got... understanding- now-

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: -now, I was in the minority now.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: -for, sort of speaking- at least I should say it at basic training. Basic training was a time when that really started in me noticing that kind of thing. And I'm saying that because the best friend that I've ever had, I had- have had- and I wish I could track him down now because over time we just lost contact- but he was from Harlem. And I remember for a long time, we were best friends forever, you know, BFFs whatever, before BFF-

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: -before BFF was BFF, and so, you know, it was never really an issue, and I liked that about my experience in the Army because [sighs] I'd explain it except that it- we all realized that the job we had to do was so important- it was hit, you know, upside our head every day we were living it, that the job was so important, that the- who cared if you were, not just a different race, but different genders too. You know, all this time of course, women weren't allowed into any combat role which we were kind of laughing at because we had a- we had a, I say, woman- are they eighteen- girl, woman, female? We were- [laughs] she was a, she worked with Jim, she was a communications specialist too, and it- she was a, she was the girlfriend of one of my other friends. He was one of the radar intercept guys, and they got married afterwards. And nice marriage- um, and it's worked for them, so it was never any tension, you know, like that. I'm sure that in other units there were, but uh, it was a pleasant experience as far as I was concerned. Not pleasant- we just- we just didn't think about it. It wasn't- it just wasn't the issue; it just wasn't the issue. And I am personally with my friend from basic training, um, I was just curious about his life, and he was just curious about mine. And so, I didn't live through like the Watts

Riots- any kind of gender- gender and cultural antagonism- just wasn't part of my life growing up. And we also, you know, looking back on it, not to do with the Army or anything- but this little town surrounded by on the outskirts by farmland, and believe it or not, there was a pickle farm- growing pickles- cucumbers, or pickles or whatever- big spread- friend- from the friend- friend of the family- you know, had a big spread out there and every summer or harvest time whenever that was- Mexican immigrants- Mexicans from Mexico would come and help with the harvest. And it never occurred to me whether they were illegal immigrants or not- I don't know, and I didn't care. But so, we did get a flavor, um, and we knew them very well too.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I think that might be one of the earliest times when I, you know, started getting interested in different cultures and different peoples. So, my interest kind of just blossomed from there and uh- so it never occurred to me that I should hate you because you're different, you know what I mean?

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And my parents even though they were very Goldwater Republicans, you know the only prejudice I- I learned that my mom ever had frankly- going to record this but she'll, she'll never hear this [laughs]

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: And she might even acknowledge it-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: -was the antisemitism which was pretty rampant in small town Midwest America
[sighs]

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Um, she was a- that surprised me cause I never had- and I learned only, I only learned
this later in life.

HUNTLEY: Yeah- I'm sure she didn't pass it on to you or anything.

SMITH: Right- that's right- exactly, so I, you know, and gender too- just um, I was always kind
of focused on- maybe it's my dad's influence too, as a business owner- so focused on the
business, that it didn't matter to him to either if you're just making money-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: - he was the controller of a big company- and if- if- if female, male, black, white, red,
green, you're making a company money-

HUNTLEY: Yeah [chuckles]

SMITH: I like that kind of attitude, you know?

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I- I- and that's what I grew up with so.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, I think profit and military are two of the big ways where people are like, yeah, I think we can overcome this. [chuckles]

SMITH: Right. Yeah, you know, not to say that there weren't times when, you know, there were times actually in basic training when I- when the African American contingent and my contingent were, um, were in a foxhole against- this was Fort Ord, so it was very, um, minority rich.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And one of the major groups were in my unit- six of them, I think- Samoans

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: And they have a, uh, I think not- not prejudice against Samoans but they were- they have a hair trigger temper. So, we all-

HUNTLEY: At least those ones. [laughs]

SMITH: At least those ones- exactly, that's exactly right- I'm, so, but- I'm- you know, at eighteen that was my first encounter, um, and they were- they were nasty.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: We just kind of huddled together and tried to stay away from them. And they liked us staying away from them too.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, that was no prob- other than that, I mean, in gender, you know, I don't- she did her job and we were- I mean, you hear other units, you know, where there might've been and especially at the time, racial issues, but then, you know, the officers were pretty much on top of that. And you know, even in basic training, as a consequence of Vietnam, um, there were special courses that were developed- actually, I think we may have been, um, the first basic training class that were required to take gen- I don't know what you call it- we called it- we called it- [sighs] oh what did they call it- racial [sighs] racial sensitivity classes. I don't remember.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles] The seventy's equivalent.

SMITH: And I don't even remember the curriculum- anything we were taught- I remember it was a separate class that we had to go through, but you know, first aid and M16- and rifle and weapons shooting, and weapons training and whatever, and physical training and that was just what- a new part of basic training attitude. I think that came out of- some other special training I had that kind of came out of Vietnam. Um, gender sensitivity, I think they called it, or something, but I don't even remember what I learned.

HUNTLEY: [chuckles]

SMITH: But yeah, then we had other trainings that we were trained in- some special training that I had- I forget where it was- but in the course of all my intelligence work, we had, I think, a couple of weeks of POW training.

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: Cause coming out of the Vietnam experience, uh, they were worried that cause this was all brand new, I think, we had to rethink- at the time- we had to rethink all the instructions we would get and the- we wanted to know specifically the- our duty if we were to become POWs and it was important for us intelligence work cause we were more likely to become POWs because we were running on the border. They could just reach out and grab you [laughs]

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: So, we were thinking, so we had to co- and that was like pretty hardcore. I mean, we were like- it was like a whole, a play. We were POWs and other army guys were the guards and they treated us like, um, I think it was like about two weeks, they treated us like POWs in Vietnam.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And we would be um, and at the time too, this was a transition into- a training transition where you could get hit, they could hit you, now no more hitting. [chuckles]

HUNTLEY: Oh

SMITH: They could hit you, now no more hitting. We were lined up for chow one day in basic training, and um, a drill sergeant who just despised this one trainee was yelling at 'em, and you know how they get like this?

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And that guy flinched back like this, and his arms came up, and the drill sergeant says, and I'm standing right by them- and he goes, he goes- you trying to slug me- did you take a swipe at me?! And he starts beating him- starts beating on him, and then at that very instant, like

three other drill sergeants just piled on top of him, start beating hell on him, they dragged him away. We saw him later. He had, you know, bruises on his face and, um, he straightened up.

[claps hands]

HUNTLEY: This was very good- was this regular training- this was basic training?

SMITH: Basic, basic training.

HUNTLEY: Oh okay

SMITH: Basic training. This was all a transition. We could see it. Like-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Yeah, there was- there were rumors going through basic training that, oh, our drill sergeant was, um, he killed a guy- he killed a guy in a bar fight, you know, and all that stuff- ridiculous. Who knows if it's true or not, but we were starting to believe it because we see what he's doing.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: But this was all like a transition. Consequence of Vietnam was a whole rethinking as it turns out, from what you can and can't do as a drill sergeant in basic training-

HUNTLEY: Oh yeah

SMITH: They're not allowed to touch you now, which kind of cracks me, us up because, damn [laughs] we just missed it.

HUNTLEY: [laughs] Should've taken that one more year in college.

SMITH: So- yeah, right. Which is another thing too, by the way. I got done, um, with all that language training, and other training- I got um, I got three years- two and a half year at least of college credit. So, when I got out it only took me like a year- a school year and a summer to get my bachelor's degree.

HUNTLEY: Yeah. Oh, that's nice.

SMITH: Yeah, that turned out good.

HUNTLEY: Well, so we haven't said a question about civilian life. We could always do a follow-up if you're interested.

SMITH: Okay

HUNTLEY: Um, your interview has been so rich that there's plenty for anybody to use.

SMITH: [unintelligible] Oh, I got mine. I do have more and more- you know, I just never talked about this. It's just kind of- feels like it's just starting to kind of pour out.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: But it's all- I'm happy to do this cause I would never on my own sit down and talk about this. And nobody's really interested, you know?

HUNTLEY: [laughs] Yeah

SMITH: Nobody's really-

HUNTLEY: What we're learning with the World War II one is that by the time people realize that they're interested, it's usually getting to be where people are-

SMITH: - passing away.

HUNTLEY: Yeah, yeah exactly so this is kind of like a-

SMITH: I can end with this comment.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: When I got out of the army- when I left-

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: -um, coming back here, we could not get out of our uniform fast enough.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: I came on a leave once for a week to visit my parents during when I was in Germany, and um, it was New Year's Eve- and, and, um, my parents wanted to take me out for New Year's Eve, and my mom insisted that I wear my uniform.

HUNTLEY: [laughs]

SMITH: [laughs] I go- oh my God, I'll never- this is so traumatic, you know.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And today, you know, I was talking with a Navy veteran friend of mine who's actually retired from the NCIS of all things- and he was saying that uh, I remember when I first met him, he was saying don't you say thank you for your service to me. Don't you dare say it to me.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Don't you dare say that to me. And I go, that's interesting, I don't, I don't care if you would say it or not to me either cause that comes from Vietnam, or immediate post-Vietnam experience where I wouldn't be caught dead in my uniform- oh my goodness.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: The minute we got off that plane- got off to Fort Dixon, New Jersey to muster out as they say and sign all the paperwork and everything- no, we couldn't be out of our uniform fast enough, and it's not a pride thing.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: It wasn't say, we hated the Army, it was the people- the population that- it's just like a- it's not a pendulum swing, this is like night and day- it's like, thank you for your service- why are you talking to me, I thought you knew I was in the army and going to call me baby killer and beat the hell out of me.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: And that's what happened, and I just, you know, the guys especially that got shot at, hurt, killed or whatever in Vietnam, I can't imagine.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: Of course, they went nuts- of course, they went- you come back after that- I mean we come back after what we did, and no, no, um, thank you.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I got to thank you though by the way.

HUNTLEY: Yeah

SMITH: I even got a copy of- this is my- we got to go to class-

HUNTLEY: Yeah, yeah, no, we'll go ahead and no, we'll go ahead and end there. So um, we're ending at 12:53, still Friday, October the 20th and um, maybe we'll schedule a follow up. But thank you very much for doing this- this was awesome, so, um, but I'll go ahead and-

[End of transcription]